United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNFICYP mandate until 31 December; stresses urgent need to implement confidence-building measures; will review United Nations role and progress towards political settlement in Cyprus.

+ IAEA receives DPRK's letter of withdrawal effective immediately; United States Ambassador Madeleine Albright describes DPRK's activities as exceptionally serious; says sanctions viewed as tool to try and correct DPRK's actions.

+ Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development adopts "Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women"; calls for measures against abuse and trafficking of women and female children.

+ Heavy fighting continues in Kigali, with RPF reported in control of interim Government complex in Giterama; Special Human Rights Rapporteur and Rapporteur on Torture travelling to capital.

+ Special Committee against Apartheid in draft report to General Assembly says it has completed its work; recommends appointment of high-level coordinator for United Nations development activities in South Africa

+ Second round of inter-Tajik talks between the Government of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition to start in Teheran on 18 June; will aim to reach agreement on the cessation of hostilities between parties.

+ UNESCO to hold seminar on Palestinian trade and investment needs in Paris beginning 20 June; will focus on efforts to build a new Palestinian economy.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) until 31 December 1994. In unanimously adopting resolution 927 (1994), the Council stressed the need to

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implement a package of confidence building measures relating to the fenced area of Varosha and Nicosia International Airport. It urged all parties to commit to a significant reduction in the number of foreign troops on the island and to reduce defence spending there in order to help restore confidence between the parties. It also urged community leaders to promote tolerence and reconciliation between their people.

The Council called on military authorities on both sides to cooperate with UNFICYP and ensure no incidents occured along the buffer zone. It called on them to begin discussions with UNFICYP aimed at prohibiting along the cease-fire line, the use of live ammunition and weapons -- other than those which are hand-held -- and the firing of weapons within sight and sound of the buffer zone. It also called on them to cooperate with UNFICYP in extending the 1989 unmanning agreement to cover all areas of the zone where the two sides were in close proximity.

The Council stressed that it would conduct a thorough review of the United Nations role in Cyprus and progress towards a political settlement there. It said it would consider a set of options presented by the Secretary-General and it asked him to review the Force's structure and strength, with a view to its possible restructuring.

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The United States, as depository for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Treaty has received a letter from the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) announcing its withdrawal from the Agency. A United Nations spokesman said that the letter had been transmitted to the Director-General of the IAEA in Vienna and the DPRK's withdrawal would be effective immediately.

Meanwhile, United States Ambassador Madeleine Albright told United Nations correspondents at Headquarters today that a new stage had been reached as far as the situation in the DPRK was concerned. For some time, the United States and other countries had viewed what was going on in the DPRK as execptionally serious and had been talking about sanctions, she said. Sanctions were not viewed as an end in themselves, but as a tool whereby the international community shows the DPRK that it needs to adjust its behaviour.

Ambassador Albright said the aim of sanctions was to get the DPRK to take some corrective action about what they have been doing in the past and also to warn them about not taking certain actions in the future. She said the sanctions resolution being considered would be a phased one and was carefully calibrated.

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The Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development concluded in Jarkata yesterday with the adoption of a Declaration and Plan of Action to promote the advancement of women in the Asian and Pacific region. The Plan of Action will serve as the region's contribution to

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the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing next year. Known as the "Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women", it states that women should have equal rights to obligations and opportunities with men in all fields and at all levels of development.

The Declaration, which was drafted by a meeting of senior government officials, covers a range of issues such as women and work, child prostitution and the effect on women of economic reforms in economies of transition It calls on countries to take effective measures against the exploitation and abuse of young women including abduction, rape, incest and trafficking both within and outside their borders.

Several representatives from Asian and Pacific countries, which have the largest proportion of women in the world, expressed concern about the growing feminisation of poverty - a factor which has driven countless women into low status, low-paying jobs and even organized prostitution.

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Despite the announcement of a cease-fire agreement in Rwanda at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit, heavy shelling continued in Kigali today, a spokesman for the Organization said. The headquarters of the United Nations Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) was hit by small arms fire. There were also reports that the city of Giterama had been captured by the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) and there were large numbers of civilian casualties. The complex recently occupied by the interim Government had been abandoned and ransacked.

In a related development, the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights for Rwanda and the Special Rapporteur on Torture will leave Nairobi for Kigali tomorrow. They will be accompanied by staff members from the Centre for Human Rights and the UNAMIR Force Commander Romeo Daillaire. The Special Rappporteur on Summary and Arbitrary Executions and one staff member from the Centre will continue to investigate the human rights of Rwandan refugees in neighbouring countries.

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The Special Committee against Apartheid reported yesterday that it had fulfilled its mandate and successfully concluded its work. In a draft report to the General Assembly, the Committee said the system of apartheid had been brought to an end. It also recommended that the Assembly appoint a high-level coordinator for all United Nations development activities in South Africa for the next five years, to coincide with the tenure of the Government of National Unity. The action was taken at the final open meeting of the Committee, which was established in 1962 to review all aspects of South Africa's apartheid policies and their international repercussions.

The report stressed that South Africans of all races had benefited from the events in their country. The United Nations, the Special Committee and the international community could be proud of their efforts to end apartheid,

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as well as their support for all South Africans who had struggled against it, the Committee said.

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A second round of inter-Tajik talks between the Government of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition will start in Teheran on 18 June. The main objective of the talks will be an agreement on the cessation of hostilities, which would confirm that a viable political process of national reconciliation had been launched in Tajikistan. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Tajikistan, Ambassador Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, will again chair the negotiations. Representatives of Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) will attend the talks as observers.

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will hold a seminar on Palestinian trade and investment needs at its Paris headquarters, beginning 20 June. The three-day seminar will focus on efforts to build a new Palestinian economy in the light of the Declaration of Principles and subsequent agreements signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). It will also analyse relevant provisions of the status of multilateral negotiations, Palestinian bilateral economic relations, and the role of international assistance.

Organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Seminar will be attended by Representatives from UNESCO, the United Nations, Palestine and the Palestinian Rights Committee, as well as donor countries and non-governmental organizations.

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